

**MINNESOTA ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO  
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
MEETING MINUTES**

February 17, 2017

The Minnesota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Committee) convened via conference call to discuss civil rights concerns in the State. Velma Korbelt chaired the meeting and performed the initial roll call of committee members present. The meeting was open to the public and took place from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM CDT.

**Advisory Committee Members:**

**Present:**

1. Battle, Robert
2. Check, Ryan
3. Dobratz, Matthew
4. Guadarrama, Leticia
5. Kolbo, Kirk
6. Korbelt, Velma (Chair)
7. Nelson, Teresa
8. Valens, Nyagatare
9. Vischer, Robert

**Absent:**

1. Beaulieu, Jacqueline
2. Doyle, Kenneth (Vice Chair)
3. Huynh, Denise
4. Levy-Pounds, Nekima
5. Taylor, Craig

**Commission Staff present:**

- Wojnarowski, Melissa (DFO)
- Wilks, Olivia (USCCR intern)

**Members of the Public present:**

- None identified

**Meeting Notes/Decisions Made:**

Approval of Minutes

1. Robert Battle moved for the Committee to approve the meeting minutes from January 09, 2017 as drafted (attached).
2. Rob Vischer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Discussion: Hearing Preparation—Police Practices in Minnesota

*Discussion of Panel Nominations. The Committee reviewed outreach progress and remaining panel spots to be filled (see attached).*

**1. Academic Panel (8:15-9:30am)**

- a. Kirk Kolbo moved to include testimony from **Gene Borgida** on the academic panel.
  - i. Robert Battle seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

- b. Teresa Nelson moved to include **Tracie Keesee** and **Ebony Ruhland** on the academic panel
  - i. Kirk Kolbo seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

**2. Community Panel I (9:45-11:00am)**

- a. Rob Vischer moved to include the following individuals on the Community I Panel:
  - i. **Vina Kay,**
  - ii. **Justin Terrell,**
  - iii. and **Dr. Louis Porter**
- b. Teresa Nelson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

**3. Community Panel II (11:15am-12:30pm)**

- a. Nagatare Valens moved to include the following individuals on the Community II Panel
  - i. **Fartun Weli.**
  - ii. and **Robert Lilligren**
- b. Robert Battle seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

**4. Law Enforcement Panel (1:15-2:45pm)**

- a. Kirk Kolbo moved to add the following individuals to the Law Enforcement Panel:
  - i. **Bloomington Police Union Michael Gallagher,**
  - ii. and **one additional St. Paul officer (street-level officer)**
- b. Rob Vischer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote
- c. In order to allow sufficient time to hear from all 7 of the Law Enforcement Panel nominees, the Committee determined to begin the panel at 1:15pm instead of 1:30pm as originally indicated.

**5. Policy-Makers/Judicial Panel (3:00-4:15pm)**

- a. Rob Vischer moved to include the following individuals on the Policy Maker/Judicial Panel:
  - i. **Judge Mark Kappelhoff,**
  - ii. **Chela Guzman,**
  - iii. **Barb Johnson,**
  - iv. and **Rep. Peggy Scott** (if her schedule allows)
- b. Kirk Kolbo seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote

*Note: Open Forum will take place from 4:15-5:00pm*

### Future Plans and Actions

- In preparation for the next Committee meeting (2/27/17), the Chair encouraged Committee members to review each panel and think about the kinds of questions they would like to ask of each panelist
  - USCCR staff have requested brief abstracts from each panelist. Abstracts will be submitted to the Committee as soon as they are received to aid in this discussion.
- USCCR staff will ensure all panelists have been asked to review President Obama's 21<sup>st</sup> century policing task force recommendations in preparation for their testimony and discussion
  - In preparation for the public hearing on Marcy 21, 2017, all Committee members should also familiarize themselves with the 21<sup>st</sup> century policing report and its recommendations.
- All panelists who were unavailable or who otherwise declined to participate have been invited to submit written testimony to the Committee.
  - The Chair encouraged Committee members to consider if there are any individuals who will not speak on a panel, but who Committee members would specifically like to encourage to submit a written statement.
  - The Committee would like to specifically request a written statement from John Choi regarding the use of municipal court fines and fees (see article, attached)
  - USCCR Staff will reach out to Mr. Choi to request such a statement.

### Upcoming Meetings

- **Monday February 27 at 12pm (teleconference)**
- **Tuesday March 21, 8:00am – 5:15pm (in Minneapolis)**

Meeting Adjourned, 2:57 pm, CST.